



ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE OF THE COURTS

OFFICE OF COURT CONSTRUCTION
AND MANAGEMENT

DESIGN OVERVIEW: New San Bernardino Courthouse

The New San Bernardino Courthouse, designed by the San Francisco office of Skidmore, Owings & Merrill LLP (SOM), will complement the city's historic courthouse with a flexible, modern, and sustainable center for justice that will meet the needs of the Superior Court for future generations. This project is the largest currently in design by the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Project Overview

The entire facility will occupy 361,700 square feet on a seven-acre site. The new building will consolidate services from seven facilities and will serve the criminal, traffic, family law, probate, and dependency divisions of the Superior Court, as well as provide spaces for court administration, self-help, jury services, sheriff's operations, and in-custody holding.

Design Approach

The New San Bernardino Courthouse consists of two elements:

- A three-story section, or podium, built along the site's northern edge, will house functions that the public accesses most frequently: clerk's offices, jury assembly, and support spaces. The west section of the podium contains a spacious entrance lobby incorporating features that draw in daylight while limiting heat gain. This lower building mass helps to scale the courthouse to its immediate context.
- An 11-story, 200-foot-tall tower will house the courtrooms and judicial offices. This tower will express the stature of the Court and serve as a landmark for the city.

The two sections are connected by a top-lit, cascading stair and a multi-story atrium. Within the tower, each floor will contain four courtrooms, with public hallways and waiting areas occurring behind a glassy façade on the north. This transparent façade will enable those using the building to view the city and surrounding mountains, while providing visibility into the functioning of the Court to the public outside the building.

Both the body of the tower and the frame of the podium will be clad in richly textured limestone, which will recall the historic courthouse and reflect the dignity of the Superior Court.

Features

The building's key features include the following:

- **Courtroom configuration:** Four large courtrooms, 28 standard courtrooms, and 3 small courtrooms, plus 2 hearing rooms. Most courtrooms will accommodate juries, and all have access to holding facilities for in-custody detainees.
- **Designed for future expansion,** the building design will accommodate construction of 4 full-sized courtrooms in lieu of the smaller courtrooms and hearing rooms, as caseload needs change in the future, for a total of 36 courtrooms.
- **Sustainable design:** With a minimum target of LEED[®] Silver certification, the New San Bernardino Courthouse will seek to establish a sustainable model of development in the city. The design has carefully considered orientation, shading, material selection, and landscaping so that the building will thrive within its desert climate.

More Information

More information about the project and renderings are available at:
www.courtinfo.ca.gov/programs/occm/projects_sanbernardino.htm